



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Oct. 25, 2005

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RAISE TEACHER SALARIES
Effort will bring salaries above national average in four years

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today announced a plan to bring teacher salaries to the national average within four years and substantially increase the competitiveness of North Carolina's beginning teacher salary. By the 2008-09 school year, teachers in North Carolina will earn an average of \$52,266, above the national average estimated by the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) to be \$52,206 for that year. Easley and his staff consulted with legislators, education leaders and teachers in developing the plan.

"To continue to build the highly skilled workforce that our state needs to compete and succeed in the global economy, we need to provide a quality education for all our citizens," said Easley. "Good teachers are one of the keys to a child's success in school and we must do all that we can to keep qualified educators in the classroom."

"Members of the Senate are committed to investing in new and creative means of recruiting and retaining the best teachers in North Carolina," said Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight. "Certainly, increasing pay for our state's teachers is one of the best ways to achieve this goal which is why we made funding available in this year's budget to provide additional teacher salary increases. We realize that beginning teacher salaries and subject areas in competition with the private sector (math and science) should also receive special attention in the near future. North Carolina students deserve the highest quality education and we will continue our efforts to provide just that."

"Increasing teachers' salaries is one of the best ways to recruit and keep highly qualified teachers in our classrooms," Speaker Jim Black said. "Our teachers must be compensated at a level that more appropriately reflects the importance of their role in our state's education system, but more importantly in the lives of our children, and the Legislature remains committed to achieving this goal."

Easley's plan provides for an increase of \$750 for teachers on an annualized basis this year, effective in the November paycheck. This permanent increase is in addition to the average 2.24 percent increase already provided in the 2005-06 budget. There will be additional average annual increases of 5 percent for the following three years. This increase will significantly increase pay for new teachers. Future raises may be provided as flat-rate, percentage increases or some combination of both to meet the state's goal.